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Comparative morphology of phytotelmonous and pond-dwelling larvae of four neotropical treefrog species (Anura, Hylidae, Osteocephalus oophagus, Osteocephalus taurinus, Phrynohyas resinifictrix, Phrynohyas venulosa)

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We dedicate this paper to the memory of Rudolf WYTEK († August 25, 1995, Vienna)

External and buccopharyngeal morphology of phytotelmonous and ponddwelling larvae of four neotropical hylid species were analyzed with respect to differential diagnosis and ecomorphology. Larvae typically live in bromeliads (Osteocephalus oophagus), tree holes (Phrynohyas resinifictrix), ponds in rainforest (Osteocephalus taurinus), and ponds in open areas (Phrynohyas venulosa). Discriminant analysis of morphometric external characters revealed only slight differences between the phytotelmonous species, but two well separated subgroups among the pond-dwelling species. AIl species showed average body proportions, macrophagous habits, and pulmonary as well as branchial respiration. Tadpoles living in phytotelms were characterized by reduction of peribuccal and buccopharyngeal structures, and differed notably ⁱⁿ jaw sheath morphology and lung development among species. Tadpoles developing in ponds were characterized by high numbers of tooth rows and low balance values. The genera Osteocephalus and Phrynohyas were distinguished best by development of secondary upper tooth rows, position of the eyes, and gross body proportions. Bibliothèque

INTRODUCTION

In this study we describe the tadpoles of Osteocephalus oophagus Jungfer & Schiesari, 1995, Osteocephalus taurinus Steindachner, 1862, Phrynohyas resinifictrix (Goeldi, 1907), and Phrynohyas venulosa (Laurenti, 1768). Larval gross body characters and external buccal features are examined through series comprising almost the entire larval period. Internal buccopharyngeal surface features and detailed morphometry are considered in advanced tadpole stages only.

Tadpoles of the four species have already been described by a number of authors (Table ^I). However, with the exception of P. venulosa, those descriptions were based on small samples and provided ^littl^e information on ontogenetic and intraspecific variation. Information on buccopharyngeal larval morphology was available only for P. resinifictrix.

The neotropical hylid genera Osteocephalus Steindachner, 1862 (seven species; JUNGFER & SCHIESARI, 1995) and Phrynohyas Fitzinger, 1843 (five species; FROST, 1985) are well defined by their adult morphology (TRUEB, 1970; TRUEB & DUELLMAN, 1971). Within both genera, larval habitats vary significantly among species and include phytotelms, ponds, and streams (Table VIII). The larval habitats for the four species in this study are principally of two types: phytotelms and ponds. Larvae of O , $oophagus$ typically develop in rainforest bromeliads at the ground or off-ground up to 2 m high; those of P. resinifictrix dwell in spacious tree holes in the canopy up to 35 m high. In contrast, larvae of O. taurinus typically develop in rainforest ponds and those of P. venulosa in ponds of open areas.

To better understand larval morphology of the species analyzed in depth in this study, we finally include comparative data from the literature on other Osteocephalus and Phrynohyas species (Table VIIL, ^fig. 7) and refer to phenotype-ecotype interdependencies recognized for anuran larvae (WASSERSUG, 1980; LANNOO et al., 1987; WASSERSUG & HEYER, 1988; ALTIG & JOHNSTON, ¹989).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Collection data, ^a^s well ^a^s the number and range of developmental stages of the ^tadpole^s examined, ^ar^e summarized ⁱⁿ ^Tabl^e ^Il. Tadpoles ^wer^e ^preserve^d ⁱⁿ 4% formaldehyde solution. Most of the series were preserved in the ^fiel^d shortly after collection. Some series of P . resinifictrix and O . taurinus were reared in the laboratory from spawn or tadpoles collected in the ^field. Specific assignment of the tadpoles collected by L. C. SCHIESARI was confirmed by specimens raised in the laboratory either from identified spawn ^o^r ^unti^l neometamorphosed stages (exceeding stage 46, GOsNER, 1960), and was confirmed by congruency with the museum tadpole ^serie^s indicated ⁱⁿ Table II. P. venulosa larvae were identified by ^J. P. CALDWELL.

Determination of larval developmental stages follows Gosner (1960). Morphometric parameters (Table III) are defined as in GRILLITSCH et al. (1993). Within stages, the

Table I. - Literature survey on larval morphology of Osteocephalus oophagus, Osteocephalus taurinus, Phrynohyas resinifictrix and Phrynohyas venulosa. L Research survey on tart and proposity of λ

¹. Tadpoles described under the name Osteocephalus sp.

2. Déscription of O. taurinus tadpoles in DUELLMAN & LESCURE (1973) must be referred to Hyla geographica (CALDWELL, 1989); this also applies to the O. taurinus tadpole described ⁱⁿ DUELLMAN (1978). Original description of Hyla elkejungingerae (HENLE, 1981) includes ^larva^l morphology. This ^specie^s has been considered ^a possible synonym of ^O. taurinus (FROST, 1985), but was redefined by HENLE (1992) as Osteocephalus elkejungingerae and is considered as a distinct species in the present study.

3. Tadpoles described under the name Phrynohyas spilomma..

⁴. Reexamination of the series of ZWEIFEL (1964) and PYBURN (1967), and comparison with a further series from Tepic, Nayarit (México), support conspecificity of the tadpoles of ZWEIFEL and PYBURN.

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Table II. - Material investigated: Museu Nacional do Rio de Janeiro, Brasil (MNRIJ);, Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de Säo Paulo, ^Brasi^l (MZUSP); L. C. Scmsart ^fiel^d numbers ^o^f ^materia^l ^deposite^d ⁱⁿ ^th^e MZUSP (LCS).

> Localities: Reserva Florestal Adolfo Ducke, Manaus, Amazonas, Brasil (A);
Reservas INPA No. 3402, 1501, 1401, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisa do Amazonas
World Wildlife Fund, Amazonas, Brasil (B); Juruá, Rio Xingú, Pará, Br Vista, Roraima, Brasil (D).

Collectors: see notes.

Morphometry: number of specimens and range of stages of the specimens investigated for gross body morphometry (Table III), detailed morphometry (Table ¹¹¹) and tooth row counts (Table IV).

1. Sa
2. Sa
3. Sa
4. Co
5. Co

C. SCHIESARI.
M. HERO.

6. Coll. C. Gascon.
7. Coll. J. P. Caldwell.

Table III. - Comparison of morphometric parameters describing the body proportions of the tadpoles of Osteocephalus oophagus, Osteocephalus
taurinus, Phrynolyvas resinificitix and Phrynolyvas venulosa, for developmental st

t*aurinus, Phrynohyas resinifictrix* and *Phrynohyas venulosa*, for developmental stages pooled within two different ranges.
Parameters (distances as defined in GRILLITSCH et al., 1993): maximum diameter of eye (ED); maxim (OD), interpupillar distance (PP); rostro-narial distance (RN); distance tip of snout - opening of spiracle (SS); distance tip of snout ⁱnsertioⁿ of upper ^tai^l ^fiⁿ (SU); distance snout - ^vent, snout-vent length (SV); maximum height of upper ^tai^l ^fiⁿ (UF); distance vent opening of spiracle (VS); distance vent - tip of ^tail, ^tai^l length (VT).

For each parameter, ^th^e following information ⁱ^s provided: mean value + standard deviation; range ⁱⁿ parenthesis; number For each parameter, the following information is provided: mean value \pm standard deviation; range in parameters; number
of specimens in brackets; coefficient of regression of ratios with stage in an expected brackets, waved brackets, $P < 0.05$, $\epsilon \cdot P < 0.01$.

 $\overline{\omega}$.

Table IV. - Comparison of collective median formulae (DuBois, 1995) of labial tooth rows (median values, range in parentheses, number of specimens in brackets, presence and position of vances, range in parencheses, namber or specimens in oraexets, presence and position or
paps not indicated) of Osteocephalus oophagus, Osteocephalus taurinus, Phrynohyas resinifictrix and Phrynohyas venulosa, in relation to the stage of larval development.

Stages 25	Median collective tooth row formulae										
	O. oophagus		O. taurinus		P. resinifictrix		P. venulosa				
			$2/3(3-4)$	[27]	$2/3(3-4)$	$[15]$	2/3	[3]			
26		٠	$2/4(3-4)$	$[10]$	$2/3; 4(3-4)$	[16]		۰			
27	2/3	[1]	215	[5]	$2/4(3-4)$	[11]		ü			
28	2/3	[1]	$2/5(5-6)$	[11]	2/4	[5]		$\overline{}$			
29	2/3	$[1]$		٠	$2/4(3-4)$	[3]		×,			
30	2/3	[1]		٠	$2/4(3-5)$	[6]	3/4	[1]			
31	2/3	$[3]$		۰.	$2/4(3-4)$	[6]	3/4	[3]			
32		$\overline{}$		۰	2/5	[1]		٠			
33	2/3	[2]		$\overline{}$	2/4	$[2]$		$_{\rm w}$			
34	2/3	[2]		×	$2/4(3-4)$	[3]	3/5	$[1]$			
35	2/3	3	2/6	[1]	2/4	[2]	3/5	$[1]$			
36	2/3	[1]	$2/5(4-6)$	[3]	214	[4]	4/5	$[1]$			
37	2/3	[2]	$2/7;6(6-7)$	[2]	2/4	[8]	$3/5(4-5)$	[4]			
38	2/3	[3]		ä,		×.	314	1			
39	2/3	$[4]$	$2/6(5-6)$	3	$2/4(3-4)$	[3]	3/5	[2]			
40	2/3	[1]		٠	2/4	[4]	3/5	$[1]$			
41					2/4	[1]					

collective labial tooth row formula (Dugois, 1995) is described by median value and range of tooth row counts in the anterior and posterior labium, respectively. Balance values of tooth row counts (i.e., number of rows in the upper labium minus number of rows in the lower labium) ^ar^e according ^t^o ALTIG & JOHNSTON (1989), who categorized tooth row formulae ^a^s balanced (equal number of rows on upper and lower labia), negatively imbalanced (more rows on lower labium), or positively imbalanced (more rows on upper labium). Terminology of jaw sheath morphology follows, e.g., KAUNG & KOLLROS (1976) and Fox (1984). Terminology of buccopharyngeal structures is in accordance with WASSERSUG (1976, 1980) and WASSERSUG & HEYER (1988). Typological assignment of breeding habitats (Table VIII) corresponds ^t^o DUELLMAN & TRUEB (1985), LANNOO ^e^t ^al. (1987), DUELLMAN (1988), and ALTIG & JOHNSTON (1989).

The tadpoles analyzed comprise a wide range of developmental stages (Table II). For ^all specimens, developmental stage, total length (fig. ¹), gross body proportions (Table HT), and tooth row counts (Table IV) were determined. Investigations on further morphometric parameters (Tables III and V) and on buccopharyngeal structures were

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Table V. - Comparison of (A) external and (B) internal features of *Osteocephalus oophagus*, *Osteocephalus*
taurinus, Phrynohyas resinificrix and *Phrynohyas* venulosa in advanced larval developmental
stages (38 ± 2, n

A. External features.

B. Internal features.

ording 10 Table 1. ranges in parentheses. position on oral disk. don on upper jaw sheath.

. Indistincly developed papillac in parentheses. Secondary, tertiary, quaternary, features found In ^mediaⁿ position on second cératobranchial. n position on continuous upper tooth row.
ily developed papillae in parentheses.
v. terriary, quatemary, features found in some cases in parentheses, found exceptionally in brackets.

S. In meaning position on second centron abonial.
9. Mean maximum caudal extension of inflated lungs in the abdominal cavity.

restricted to specimens of stages 38 ± 2 . We excluded material below developmental stage 26 from subsequent statistical analysis because of small sample sizes.

For examination of buccopharyngeal features, scanning electron microscopy (SEM, two specimens per species) and stereo light microscopy (methylene blue staining, three specimens per species) were used. Data on external features were based on stereo microscopic examination. Oral ^dis^k ^structure^s were confirmed by SEM (two specimens ^pe^r species). Preparation for SEM examination (Jeol JSM-35 CF) followed a standard procedure (ethanol dehydration, critical-point-drying, gold sputter surface-coating). Measurements ^wer^e ^determine^d ^usin^g ^a ^digita^l ^displa^y ^length-measurin^g ^uni^t (Wil^d MMS 235) attached to a stereo microscope (Wild M8).

For ^statistica^l analyses, SPSS ^fo^r Windows (Version N° ⁵.0.2.) was used. Gross body proportions were described by basic descriptive statistics. Since material examined included a wide range of developmental stages, we tested for covariation of ratios (Table ID) with total length (univariate regression for each species) and correlation of ratios with stage (Spearman rank correlation), as well as for isometry of growth. Gross body measures were log-transformed and regressed against total length ($\ln y = \ln a + b \ln x$; Gounp, 1966). Where the regression coefficient (b) was significantly different from ¹.0, the isometry hypothesis (H,) was ^rejected. We also estimated ^th^e regression of the ^ratio^s describing the gross body proportions on total length.

With discriminant analysis, we estimated the optimum linear combination of variables ^fo^r ^differentia^l diagnosis and the probability of misclassification of individuals. We used the ratios of gross body proportions for these analyses and included the number of upper and lower tooth rows. The latter two are meristic characters, and number of upper tooth rows did not show any variation in three of the species studied. Therefore, some within group variance-covariance matrices were singular. Discriminant analysis is fairly robust against this type of violation of assumptions, and, as an exploratory tool, provided concise results.

To estimate the relative influences of phylogenetic relationship (genus) and contemporary larval habitat (ecotype), univariate as well as multivariable analyses of covariance (ANCOVA, MANCOVA) were performed (stages 38 ± 2). The dependent variables were logarithms of absolute gross body measures and of numbers of upper and lower tooth rows. À ^full factorial mixed model was used with ecotype (phytotelm versus pond) and genus (Osteocephalus versus Phrynohyas) as factors and total length as covariate (JOHNSON & WICHERN, 1988; MORRISON, ¹990).

For the material examined, each ecotype was represented ⁱⁿ each genus, hence, all ^cell^s of the model were occupied. However, the number of individuals in each ^cell was unbalanced, and the individual sums of squares did not add up to the total sum of squares in the ANCOVA. Since our design is "not extremely unbalanced" (SHAW, 1987), results are not substantively compromised, and the application of other estimators will compare ^t^o ^th^e ANOVA ^estimato^r (SWALLOW & MONAHAN, ¹984; SHAW, ¹987).

Fig. 1 - Size-stage graphs (scatter plots, regression lines) of developmental stages (GosNER, 1960) and total lengths (mm): Osteocephalus oophagus (A, squares); Osteocephalus taurinus (B, multiplication signs); Phrpnohyas resinifictrix (C, circles); Phrynohyas venulosa (D, addition signs).

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RESULTS

For complete and concise description, presentation of results is based on the following conventions:

() Descriptions apply ^t^o ^all four species where no interspecific differences are indicated.

(2) Relative descriptive terms without quantification or reference of comparison refer to external morphology of "'generalized pond-type hylid larvae"' (DUELLMAN, 1970) and to the terminology for the description of buccopharyngeal morphology ^a^s used by, ^e.g., WASSERSUG (1980), VIERTEL (1982), INGER (1985), and WASSERSUG & HEYER (1988).

(3) Precise values of the ratios describing body proportions and corresponding abbreviations are presented in Table III, metric and meristic values of oral disk and buccopharyngeal features in Table V.

For stages 26 through 40, almost ^all ratios describing gross body proportions covaried with neither total length nor stage (Table III), and therefore were pooled, in addition to the presentation for tadpoles in advanced developmental stages (38 ± 2) . In test for isometry, the regression coefficients did not differ significantly from 1.0, i.e., tadpoles' growth was isometric from stage 26 on in ^all gross body measures, except for ^tai^l height in ©. oophagus and P. resinifictrix. In these species, the tail height grew proportionately less than total length.

Through all stages examined, mean total length increased from Ω *oophagus*, through O. taurinus and P. venulosa, to P. resinifictrix (fig. 1).

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Body slightly depressed; in dorsal view, elongate elliptical in P. venulosa, elongate ovoid in O. taurinus, round ovoid to piriform in ©. oophagus, elongate elliptical to piriform in P. resinifictrix. In P. resinifictrix, O. oophagus and O. taurinus, body width correlated with amount of ingested eggs. Those eggs were visible through the abdominal wall, notably in O. oophagus, whose integument was comparatively pale, thin and transparent.

Spiracular tube sinistral, directed posterodorsally, tightly attached to the body, opening slightly below midline of body, at about one-half to two-thirds of distance from tip of snout to opening of vent tube (SS/SV). Vent tube of moderate size, opening medially to subdextrally at edge of ventral fin. Tail length equal to three-halves the snout-vent length; tail proportionately shortest in O. oophagus and longest in P. resinifictrix (VT/SV). Dorsal ^tai^l fin extending moderately onto body, inserting one-half to two-thirds the snout-vent length distant from tip of snout; insertion of dorsal ^tai^l fin most anterior in P. venulosa (SV/SU). Tail length twice to four times the tail height; tail height three to four times the height of dorsal tail fin; O. taurinus with least maximum tail height in relation ^t^o ^tai^l length and shallowest upper ^tai^l ^fiⁿ compared ^t^o ^th^e maximum height of ^tai^l (VT/HT, HT/UF). Fin edges arched; compared to the margins of caudal musculature,

more convex in P. venulosa than in P. resinifictrix, fairly parallel in Osteocephalus. Upper and lower fins almost equally high (UF/LF), gradually tapering. Caudal musculature moderate, nearly reaching the obtusely pointed tip of ^tail.

In dorsal view, snout nearly truncate in Ω conhagus, bluntly rounded in the other species. In lateral profile, snout acutely rounded in \ddot{O} , *oophagus*, rounded in *P. resinifictrix* and P. venulosa, bluntly rounded in Ω taurinus. Oral disk subterminal; position correlated with shape of snout (Table V.A); most anterior and, if expanded, partly visible in dorsal view in O. oophagus, and increasingly more posterior from P. resmifictrix trough P. venulosa to Ω taurinus. Eyes moderately large, situated dorsolaterally; widely spaced, directed laterally, visible in ventral view in Phrynohyas, slightly less separated, directed dorsolaterally, not visible in ventral view in Osteocephalus. Nostrils rimmed, directed anterolaterally, about midway between pupillae and tip of snout in Osteocephalus, slightly more anterior in Phrynohyas (RN/NP), internarial distance about two-thirds the interpupillar distance (PP/NN).

ORAL DISK

Oral disk (fig. 2) medium-sized, moderately expanded laterally, slightly trilobate ventrally. Labial papillae average sized; extension of dorsomedian gap about one-fifth of continuous upper tooth row in O. oophagus, P. resinifictrix and P. venulosa, one-third of α continuous upper tooth row in Ω , taurinus. In the fully expanded oral disk, marginal labial papillae arranged in a single or alternating double row; submarginal papillae scattered in the lateral oral disk portions, most frequently ventrolaterally, often in lateral continuation of the outermost lower tooth rows. Labial papillae more numerous in P. venulosa and O. taurinus than in P. resinifictrix and Ω , conhagus (Table V.A); denticulate papillae in the lateral portions of the oral disk and in lateral extension of secondary tooth rows frequently present in P. venulosa, exceptionally present in P. resinifictrix.

In early larval stages, two upper and three lower labial tooth rows present (Table IV, fig. 7). Labial tooth row formula 2/3 retained throughout entire larval period in ©. $oophagus$, and occasionally in advanced stages in P , resinifictrix; in the other species, additional lower tooth rows appearing with increasing developmental stages (Table IV). One or two additional upper tooth rows developed only in P. venulosa (Tables IV and V.A). Maximum total number of tooth rows 5 in O. oophagus, 7 in P. resinifictrix, 9 in ©. taurinus and P. venulosa.

Morphology of ontogenetically basic upper two and lower three tooth rows quite homogeneous in all species. Outer upper primary row continuous, inner one shortly interrupted medially, with ⁱt^s median ends often covered by the outer tooth row, both coextending far towards the lateral corners of the oral disk. Ridges of lower three primary rows frequently indented medially when not fully expanded; innermost always continuous in P , resinifictrix, occasionally with a very narrow median interruption in the other species; outer two always continuous; all three typically of broad and almost equal lateral extension, outermost often shorter than the inner ones in O. oophagus.

Tooth rows in excess of the basic 2/3 pattern added centrifugally in the upper (P. venulosa) as well as in the lower labium; typically, with broad median interruption in

Fig. 2. — Drawings of oral disk (top), floor (middle) and roof (bottom) of buccopharyngeal cavity after SEM micrographs: A, Osteocephalus oophagus (193/3.87); B, Osteocephalus taurinus
(2.33/4.94), C, Phrynohyas resinifictrix (1.84/5.30); D, Phrynohyas venulosa (2.33/4.62). Maxi-

mum horizontal (graph) diameter (iⁿ mm) of ^ora^l ^dis^k / of buccopharyngeal cavity ⁱⁿ parentheses. Measures according ^t^o SEM micrographs; SEM preparation shrinkage ^facto^r about $0.70.$

the upper labium (P. venulosa), continuous in the lower labium; shorter and more frequently broken the more distally positioned.

^Labia^l ^keratodont^s ⁱⁿ a ^singl^e ^serie^s ^oⁿ ^eac^h ^ridge, ^cone-shape^d ^wit^h ^spatulat^e ^apica^l portions bearing acute marginal denticles; ^siz^e and density of keratodonts, and number of apical indentations slightly varying among species and genera (Table V.A).

Jaw sheaths (fig. 2) broadly dark pigmented, robust, wide, reaching far towards lateral corners of oral disk; front surfaces of average curvature; median part of occlusive margins slightly convex and rectilinear; jaw sheaths moderately narrower and more delicate in *O. oophagus* than in the other species. Edges of upper and lower jaw sheaths smooth in O. oophagus, finely serrated in the other species. In SEM examination, exposed parts of apical cone cells incisiviform in *O. oophagus*, caniniform in the other species (fig. 3); shape subrectangular with nearly straight distal edges and tight lateral attachment in O. oophagus, acutely pointed, cone-shaped in ©. taurinus, lanceolate in Phrynohyas; longest and most acutely tapered in P. resinifictrix (Table V.A).

BUCCOPHARYNGEAL CAVITY

Buccopharyngeal surface features quite homogeneous in ^all four species. Variation mainly restricted to number and ^siz^e of the papilla-derived structures, being longer and more numerous in O , taurinus and P. venulosa than in O , oophagus and P. resinifictrix, with O. oophagus showing the simplest and P. venulosa the most differentiated pattern (Table V.B, fig. 2).

Buccopharyngeal roof. — Prenarial arena broad, centrally with stout tuberous pustulations, scattered or fused to a median knob or ridge, of variable arrangement even within a species. Internal nares elongate, obliquely oriented; relative length of internal nares in Phrynohyas about two-thirds that of Osteocephalus; angle between longitudinal axis of internal nares and transversal body axis smaller in P. venulosa than in the other species (Table V.B). Anterior narial wall lined by tiny, laterally slightly more elongate papillae; posterior narial wall valve smooth-edged, slightly lobate; narial valve projections faint or slightly lobate. Postnarial papillae arranged in an anteriorly convex arch except for some scattered minor pustulations, well separated from each other in Osteocephalus, more basely fused in Phrynohyas. One lateral ridge papilla per side, broad-based, palp-like, bearing rather stout or conical pustulations. Median ridge average sized, flan-like; triangular, more slender, elongate, small-based, distant from the lateral ridge papillae, with a pointedly lobed margin in ©. oophagus and P. resinifictrix, semicircular, more stout, broad-based, laterally extended towards the lateral ridge papillae, with the margin tightly bordered by a row of small pustulations in O taurinus and P , venulosa (Table V.B). Papillae in the spacious buccal roof arena comparatively small in all species. Papillae bordering the arena more distinct; in the lateral corners of the arena slightly elongate in ©. taurinus and P. venulosa, almost absent in ©. oophagus and P. resinifictrix. Lateral roof papillae scarce but minor pustulations. Dorsal velum continuous across midline with the medial edge bare of papillation. Glandular zone distinct in ^all species. Width of glandular zone and diameter of secretory pits less in P. resinifictrix than in the other species (Table VB, ^fig. ²).

Fig. 3. - SEM micrographs of edge of median upper jaw sheath (scale line equals 10 µm): A, Osteocephalus oophagus; B, Osteocephalus taurinus; C, Phrynohyas resinifictrix, D, Phrynohyas venulosa.

Buccopharyngeal floor. — Prelingual arena scattered with more or less papilliform, stout, laterally and posteriorly more frequent pustulations; almost bare in Ω , conhagus. One average sized, broadly based prelingual palp per ^side; somewhat larger with the papilliform marginal lobations more elongate, finger-like, and less numerous in Ω conhagus and P. resinifictrix than in the other species. One pair of slim cylindrical lingual papillae. Buccal floor arena well defined, center almost bare; papillae bordering the arena moderately enlarged, conical, simple; lateroposteriorly most distinct and frequently fused basely.

Buccal pockets large; orientation almost transversal in O , oophagus, oblique in the other species. Prepocket papillae scarce stout pustulations. Ventral velum distinct with evident spicular support; three spiculae per side. One marginal velar projection per filter ^cavity; ^leas^t ^develope^d ⁱⁿ ^O. oophagus. ^Free ^edg^e ^o^f ^ventra^l ^velu^m ^line^d ^b^y a ^distinc^t glandular zone; secretory pits largest in P. venulosa, slightly smaller in Osteocephalus, less prominent in ©. oophagus than in O. taurinus, considerably smaller in P. resinifictrix (Table V.B). Branchial food traps with distinct secretory ridges.

Median notch broad, leaving glottis fully exposed; glottal lips broad, elevated; exposure of glottis ^less distinct in O. oophagus than in the other species (fig. 2). Lungs well developed in all species (Table V.B, fig. 5) already in early ectotrophic stages; almost extending to caudal curvature of abdominal cavity except for O. oophagus (Table V.B). Esophageal funnel spacious.

Depth of branchial baskets and complexity of the ^filte^r rows — ⁱ.e., degree of branching (Table V.B), height, depth, and density of ^filte^r rows (fig. 4) — decreasing from P. venulosa through O. taurinus to P. resinifictrix and O. oophagus. Internal gills least developed in P. resinifictrix, next least in Ω , nonhagus, most differentiated in P. venulosa (Table V.B, fig. 4).

DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS

Discriminant analysis resulted in three, linearly independent, discriminant functions (Table VI). The ^firs^t discriminant function was dominated by the number of upper tooth rows. The second discriminant function was determined by the ratio of length of ^tai^l to height of ^tai^l (VT/HT), but was also influenced by the ratio of length of ^tai^l to snout-vent length (VT/SV) and the number of tooth rows in the lower labium. The ^latte^r two characters also dominated the third and least significant discriminant function. The ratios of height of ^tai^l to height of the upper ^fiⁿ (HT/UF), height of the upper fin to height of the lower ^fiⁿ (UF/LF), and of snout-vent length to the distance between tip of snout and insertion of the upper ^fiⁿ (SV/SU) poorly discriminated the species (Table VI.A).

Misclassification of specimens into species was remarkably rare and restricted to the phytotelmonous species (Table VI.B). The group centroid of P. venulosa was clearly separated on discriminant function one. On discriminant function two, group centroids were highly positive in Q , taurinus, while they were negative in Q , oophagus and P . $resinifictrix$. On the last discriminant function, group centroids of O , oophagus and P . resinifictrix were distinctly separate. In summary, the phytotelmonous species clustered closely, while the two pond types formed two more separated clusters (Table VI.C, ^fig. 6).

Fig. 4. SEM micrographs of internal gills and filter of median part of second ceratobranchial (scale line equals 100 µm): A,
Osteocephalus aophagus: B. Osteocephalus taurinus: C. Phrynohyas resinifictrix: D. Phrynohyas yen

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Fig 5. – SEM micrograph of floor of the buccopharyngeal cavity and lung sacs of *Phrynohyas* venulosa (scale line equals 1000 um).

Table VI. - Discriminant analysis of variables describing gross body proportions (abbreviations
according to Table III), including number of tooth rows in the upper and lower
labium, for Osteocephalus cophague, Osteocephal

A. Coefficients of standardized canonical discriminant functions.

B. Classification of individuals into species (correctly classified individuals on the main diagonal).

C. Canonical discriminant functions at group centroids.

Fig. 6. Scatter plot of scores of specimens and group centroids (arrows) on discriminant functions (DF) 1 and 2, and 3 and 2.
Osteocephalus pophagus (A, squares); Osteocephalus taurinus (B, multiplication signs); Phrynohya venulosa (D, addition signs).

Table VII. - Analysis of covariance of variables describing gross body proportions (abbreviations according to Table III), including number of tooth rows in the upper and lower labium, for Osteocephalus oophagus, Osteocephalus taurinus, Phrynohyas resinifictrix and Phrynohyas venulosa (stages 38 + ²). ANCOVA: sums of squares (* $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$; individual sums of

	ANCOVA							MANCOVA			
Parameters	Total length	Genus	Ecotype	Inter- action	Ex- plauned	Residual	Total	Genus	Ecotype	Inter- action	
Snout - vent	SV	$0.16**$	0.00	$0.02**$	$0.02**$	$0.30**$	0 0 8	038	0121	0 3 7 8	0 3 8 7
Tail height	HT	$0.07**$	$0.33**$	$0.13**$	$0.16**$	11699	0.15	30	-0.522	0.535	-0.444
Snout - upper fin	SU	$0.18**$	$0.25**$	$0.08*$	$0.07*$	$0.48**$	0.40	0.89	0 1 2 1	-0.091	0110
Number of upper tooth rows UTR		0.00	$0.28**$	$0.48**$	$0.41**$	$127**$	007	1 34	0 737	0 678	0.661
Number of lower tooth rows LTR		0.00	0.01	1 52**	$0.44**$	$2.26**$	0 28	2 2 6	-0.009	-0.718	0 6 0 9

squares do not sum to total sum, because occupation of cells is unbalanced). MANCOVA: coefficients of standardized canonical discriminant functions.

ANALYSIS OF COVARIANCE

With ANCOVA, ⁱnfluenc^e ^o^f ^tota^l ^length, ^ecotype, ^genus, ^an^d ^th^e ⁱnteractioⁿ between ecotype and genus, were significant for gross body measures with the exception of genus on snout-vent length. The tooth row characters were not influenced by total length; influence of ecotype and the interaction between ecotype and genus were significant for both upper and lower tooth rows, whereas the influence of genus was only significant for the number of upper tooth rows (Table VII).

MANCOVA ^produce^d ^three, ^linearl^y ^dependent, ^discriminan^t ^function^s (Tabl^e ^VII). Both ecotypes and genera were best differentiated by number of upper tooth rows but also by height of ^tail. Number of lower tooth rows only differentiated between ecotypes. For the effect of genus, tooth row characters and height of ^tai^l enter with identical signs, whereas, for the effect of ecotype, these variables enter with opposite signs. Interactions were influenced mainly by the tooth row characters with opposite signs, but also by height of ^tai^l and snout vent length, both in the same direction with the number of upper tooth rows. Craniad extension of upper fin discriminated only weakly between any factor or interaction (Table VII).

^Th^e ^observe^d ^standardize^d MANCOVA ^discriminan^t ^function^s ^associate^d ^wit^h genus, ecotype, and their interaction, condensed the morphometric ^results: compared with the pooled pond-dwelling species, the pooled phytotelmonous species were characterized by fewer upper and lower tooth rows, while, relative to their total length, they had higher ^tails. For the pond-dwelling species, higher number of lower tooth rows was found in both genera while higher number of upper tooth rows was found only in P. venulosa.

Discrimination in height of tail between ecotypes and genera was influenced mainly by Q. taurinus, which had the relatively lowest tail, while the ^tai^l characteristics of the other species were comparatively uniform.

DISCUSSION

Tadpoles of both the pond-dwelling and the phytotelmonous species studied are characterized by overall average body dimensions and, thus, resemble typical hylid pond tadpoles (DUELLMAN, 1970). P. resinifictrix and P. venulosa larvae are longer, have proportionately longer ^tails, higher upper ^tai^l fins, more lateral eyes, and more anterior nares than O. oophagus and O. taurinus larvae. As far as known from the literature (see caption of fig. 7), these intergeneric differences in height of tail and position of eyes and nares also apply to the other species of the two genera.

Collectively, buccopharyngeal features of the four species studied represent a relatively uniform type, which we consider omnivorous to macrophagous and capable of both branchial and pulmonary respiration. Nevertheless, number and size of buccopharyngeal papillae, complexity of branchial ^filte^r system, development of velar secretory tissues, differentiation of ^gills, along with number of tooth rows and of labial papillae, correspond to the principal ^larva^l habitat types ^a^s usual among anuran larvae: relative structural "simplification" characterizes the phytotelmonous larvae, wheras "elaboration" characterizes the pond-dwelling ones (WASSERSUG, 1980; ALTIG & JOHNSTON, 1989).

Less differentiated external and internal buccopharyngeal features along with the more anterior position of the oral disk in the phytotelmonous species are explained by ^thei^r predominantly macrophagous feeding ^habits. Among ^th^e phytotelm-dwelling ^specie^s analyzed, however, most internal buccopharyngeal features are less differentiated in O. oophagus than in P. resinifictrix. This divergence may be explained by different degrees of "specialization" (TRUEB, 1973) ^t^o macrophagous nutrition: ©. cophagus ⁱ^s obligatorily macrophagous, feeding on conspecific fertilized eggs and tadpoles (HöpL, 1993), while P. resinifictrix is omnivorous (GRILLITSCH, 1992; SCHIESARI, 1993), predominantly macrophagous (ScHiesari, 1993), feeding mainly on conspecific fertilized eggs, but also on ^detritu^s (SCHIESARI & GoRDO, ¹993). Among ^th^e pond-dwelling ^species, buccopharyngeal surface features are more differentiated in P , venulosa, indicating a greater reliance on microphagous feeding than in Q , taurinus. Q , taurinus larvae have been observed in the field to be voracious egg-eaters (SCHIESARI, personal observation), which matches the morphological indication of macrophagy. Osteocephalus elkejungingerae, whose tadpoles are highly cannibalistic when laboratory bred (HENLE et ^al., 1983), represents a further species within the genus with macrophagous larvae.

Lungs are spacious in the four species analyzed, although more expanded in Phrynohyas than in Osteocephalus. Comparing among phytotelmonous larvae, ^glotti^s and lungs are large in P. resinifictrix as in the tree hole-dwelling Philautus sp. and Theloderma stellatum (WASSERSUG et al., 1981), but are medium sized in Ω conhagus as in the bromeliad-dwelling Osteopilus brunneus (LANNOO et al., 1987). Among the two types of

Fig. 7. Variation of larval tooth row formulae among Osteocephalus and Phrynohyas species. Schematic drawings; median interruptions and relative lengths of lower tooth rows not considered.

References: Osteocephalus buckleyi (HERO, 1990); Osteocephalus elkejungingerae (HEN-LE, 1981); Osteocephalus langsdorffii (DUELLMAN, 1974); Osteocephalus oophagus (present study and as in Table 1); Osteocephalus taurinus (present study and as in Table 1). Osteocephalus verruciger (TRUEB & DUELLMAN, 1970); Phrynohyas coriacea (SCHIESARI & MOREIRA, in press); Phrynohyas mesophaea (LUTZ, 1973; SCHIESARI, personal observation); Phrynohyas resinifictrix (present study and as in Table I); Phrynohyas venulosa (present study and as in Table ¹).

phytotelms, tree holes offer the more anaerobic aquatic environment: dissolved oxygen was 0.2 mg/l (surface water 26°C, 25 1 water volume) in tree hole water dwelled by P. resinifictrix larvae, but 2.6 mg/l (26°C, 10-15 ml water volume) in the water of bromeliad leaf axils inhabited by O. oophagus larvae (SCHIESARI, personal observation). Correspondingly, development of lungs indicates greater importance of pulmonary respiration in tree hole-dwelling larvae than in the bromeliad-dwelling ones, whereas gill development indicates that the contrary applies ^t^o branchial respiration. Comparing within ^a genus, development of internal gills and lungs indicate greater reliance on branchial respiration but also on pulmonary respiration (especially in $\ddot{\theta}$, taurinus) in the pond-dwelling species. "Internal oral structures of anuran larvae can be used to make reasonably sound predictions about the feeding and respiratory ecology of anuran larvae" (WASSERSUG, 1980). Respiratory structures in the species studied indicate comparatively low average levels of dissolved oxygen also in the larval pond habitats. However, since "lungs appear to be advantageous to aquatic organisms even in normoxic water in that they allow buccopharyngeal surfaces to be dedicated fully to feeding rather than respiration" (WASsERSUG & MUrPHY, 1987), extensive development of lungs ⁱⁿ the pond-dwelling species studied might further correlate with their less macrophagous, more omnivorous nutrition and, at last, with correspondingly higher motility and metabolic rate in these species which, in contrast to the phytotelmonous ones, develop without "parental" food supply in a, typically, less confined habitat.

For the four species studied, shape of labial keratodonts represents a type very common ⁱⁿ Ranoidea tadpoles (e.g., HÉRON-ROYER & VAN BAMBECKE, 1889; GOSNER, 1959; INGER, 1985; ALTIG & JOHNSTON, 1989). Gross jaw sheath morphology shows no considerable peculiarities in the pond-dwelling larvae but is remarkable in the phytotelmonous ones (e.g., DUELLMAN, 1970): edges are smooth in Q. oophagus, whereas P. resinifictrix shows elongate, acutely pointed serration. Smooth edged jaw sheaths are rare ⁱⁿ anuran ^larvae. Among phytotelmonous tadpoles, ^th^e upper jaw sheath ⁱ^s smooth and the lower finely serrated in two oophagous species, the bromeliad-dwelling Hyla zeteki (DUELLMAN, 1970: 326, ^firs^t paragraph) and the ^tree hole-dwelling Philautus sp. (WassEersUG ^e^t ^al., 1981); furthermore, in some egg-eating Jamaican hylids, jaw sheaths are not denticulate (NOBLE, 1929). However, some stream-dwelling tadpoles (Hyla mixe, Hyla mixomaculata) also bear smooth-edged jaw sheaths (DUELLMAN, 1970), and, ⁱⁿ contrast, fine uniform jaw sheath serration ⁱ^s frequently reported for phytotelmonous, oophagous larvae (e.g., Osteopilus brunneus, LANNOO et al., 1987; Theloderma stellatum, WASSERSUG ^e^t ^al., 1981). Thus, various jaw sheath patterns are apparently suitable for oophagous feeding. Smooth-edged jaw sheaths are likely to have different functional correlates in rheophilous and oophagous tadpoles. In rheophilous larvae, smooth jaw sheaths may be most effective for grazing on constrained epilithic substrates; in obligatorily macrophagous oophagous larvae, such ^a^s O. oophagus, serration simply may have become unnecessary or even disadvantageous for ingesting eggs as a whole.

In the ontogenetic sequence of tooth row appearance, the labial tooth row formula 2/3 is primary in both genera (fig. 7). Additional, secondary upper tooth rows develop in Phrynohyas (except in P. resinifictrix), where they are added distally. In contrast, they are absent in Osteocephalus, with the exception of O. elkeningingerae, where they are proximal and poorly formed. Hence, the two genera are well distinguished by different derived types

of ontogenetic tooth row increase (types A ^t^o E ⁱⁿ ALTIG & JOHNSTON, ¹989): ⁱⁿ both genera, tooth rows are added centrifugally in the lower labium, but addition of tooth rows ⁱⁿ ^th^e upper labium ⁱ^s absent (type not considered ⁱⁿ ALTIG & JOHNSTON, 1989) ^o^r centripetal (type B) in Osteocephalus and centrifugal (type C) in Phrynohyas. The basic 2/3 tooth row pattern (type A) persists only in the phytotelmonous O. oophagus and occasionally in P. resinifictrix.

Total numbers of tooth rows of 5 or more than 5, as in O , oophagus and in P. resinifictrix respectively, compare to the highest known for phytotelmonous hylids (LANNOO et al., ¹987). Likewise, among non-phytotelmonous ^hylid^s and anuran larvae ⁱⁿ general (ALTIG & JOHNSTON, 1986, 1989), total number of tooth rows is comparatively high in all Osteocephalus and Phrynohyas species (fig. 7): in the pond- and stream-dwelling Osteocephalus species, maximum total numbers of tooth rows vary from 7 to 10, which is typical for lotic but not rheophilous hylid tadpoles. Surprisingly, the highest tooth row counts of up to 10 or 11 are present in the evidently lentic Phrynohyas coriacea, P. mesophaea and P. venulosa, as in the pond-dwelling tadpoles of the hylid Trachycephalus jordani (MCDIARMID & ALTIG, 1990). These tooth row counts exceed the upper ^limi^t of the range of variation known for other ^lenti^c ^hylids, and, furthermore (compared ^t^o the data ⁱⁿ ALTIG & JOHNSTON, 1986), ^ar^e within the upper third of the range of variation in lotic hylid tadpoles.

Upper and lower tooth row counts are negatively imbalanced in the two genera studied. Balance values of -1 and -2 as shown in O. oophagus and P. resmifictrix are moderate among phytotelmonous tadpoles (LANNOO ^e^t ^al., 1987), and represent the most frequent type among hylids ^a^s ^well ^a^s among anuran larvae ⁱⁿ general (ALTIG & JOHNSTON, 1986, 1989). In all other Osteocephalus and Phrynohyas species, number of tooth rows in the lower labium exceeds that in the upper labium notably (fig. 7): balance values of -3 to -4 are the most common in the two genera (fig. 7) and in Osteocephalus even reach -5 (O, taurinus) and -6 (O, buckleyi). However, in anurans in general, balance values of -3 to -6 are rare and are most common to lotic larvae (usually neotropical $Hvlq$ species), though -3 may be also found in phytotelmonous larvae (e.g., Hyla bromeliacea; DUELLMAN, 1970).

Among ^hylids, ^th^e combination of ^a wide dorsomedian interruption of ^th^e peribuccal papillary margin, ^a^s typical for "generalized pond-type" hylid tadpoles (DUELLMAN, 1970), with a number of tooth rows exceeding the typical pond-type 2/3 pattern, is rare and characterizes both Osteocephalus and Phrynohyas. À wide dorsomedian papillary gap and increased number of lower tooth rows, ^a^s is typical in Osteocephalus, is known, ^e.g., in the bromeliad Hyla dendroscarta and the pond-dwelling Hyla rufitela larvae (DUELLMAN, 1970). A wide dorsomedian papillary gap and increased numbers of both upper and lower tooth rows, ^a^s ⁱ^s typical in Phrynohyas, ⁱ^s only known in the pond-dwelling tadpoles of Hyla geographica (BOKERMAN, 1963; HERO, 1990; RADA DE MARTINEZ, 1990) and Trachycephalus jordani (McDiarmiD & ALTIG, ¹990). ^Le^t ^u^s mention ^her^e ^tha^t TRUEB (1970) suggested comparatively close phylogenetic relationship for the genera Osteocephalus, Phrynohyas and Trachycephalus. This proposal based on geographical and adult morphological evidence ⁱ^s supported by larval oral disk morphology and ⁱ^s not contradicted by the other larval features examined in this study.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Although breeding ^site^s of the species studied in depth are assigned to two principal types (phytotelms and ponds), with discriminant analysis, the external morphological characters analyzed cluster the four species into three distinct groups (fig. 6). The ^firs^t is the phytotelmonous group with only slight differences between the bromeliad species (0. $oophayus$) and the tree hole habitating species (P. resmifictrix), suggesting comparatively ^littl^e ecological diversity among these species. The other two morphotypological groups are both pond forms $(O, taurinus$ and P. venulosa), suggesting greater ecological diversity in that habitat.

Among phytotelmonous ^hylid^s (a^s reviewed ⁱⁿ LANNOO ^e^t ^al., ¹987), ^externa^l ^larva^l morphology assigns both Q. oophagus and P. resinifictix to a relatively "generalized" (TRusB, 1973) larval type in that they show "typical pond tadpole"' (LANNOO ^e^t ^al., 1987) body proportions, and oral disk features similar to those phytotelmonous species which feed mainly on detritus. For both species analyzed, dietary information and buccopharyngeal morphology indicate predominating oophagous, carnivorous macrophagy, reduced microphagy, and branchial as well as pulmonary respiration with evidently greater reliance on generalized ^die^t ⁱⁿ P. ^resinifictrix. For P. ^resinifictrix, LANNOO ^e^t ^al. (1987) therefore stated that "they appear restricted to larger aquatic bodies, which are more likely to occur in ^tree holes than in leaf axils". P. resinfictrix, in ^fact, ⁱ^s exclusively known ^t^o breed in spacious tree holes (Table VIII). Comparatively high degree of morphological congruency of P. resinifictrix and O. oophagus corresponds to their collectively relatively low degree of "specialization" (TRUEB, 1973), which, for O , oophagus, may be explained by its remarkable flexibility in breeding habitat selection: although typically breeding in bromeliads, this species has also been reported to breed in other, considerably diverse water-filled plant structures (Table VIID).

For the non-phytotelmonous larvae of the two genera, data from the literature on external larval morphology of other species greatly match the intergeneric differences observed in the species studied in depth in this study. Collectively, comparatively high ^tai^l fins, lateral eyes, and balanced tooth row formulae, as in Phrynohyas, are typical for nektonic lentic tadpoles, while the opposite, as shown by Osteocephalus, is typical for benthic, commonly moderately ^loti^c larvae. Data compiled from the literature on breeding habitats of non-phytotelmonous congeners (Table VIII) apparently parallel the above morphotypological grouping: ^all Phrynohyas species regularly breed in ponds, whereas Osteocephalus larval habitats comprise lentic, and facultatively as well as permanently lotic habitats. Most of the Osteocephalus species, in fact, breed in a stream habitat.

However, total number of tooth rows in the lentic Phrynohyas species matches or exceeds that of the most lotic Osteocephalus species, and, thus, corresponds to habitat inversely than usual among anuran larvae. Furthermore, compared ^t^o typical pond-type larvae, tooth row counts are unusually high and balance values are unusually low at least in the non-phytotelmonous species of both genera, more like in ^loti^c rather than in lentic tadpoles. Our observations might be paralleled in other groups of neotropical hylids: WASsERSUG (1980) found ^a mosaic of stream and pond related features in the

Table VIII. - Literature survey on breeding habitats of the *Osteocephalus* and *Phrynohyas* species with information on larval external morphology available
(fig 7) Regions refer to the sites of observation and do not nec

1. Described under the name Osteocephalus sp. (W. HÖDL, personal communication).

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bromeliad-dwelling Hyla dendroscarta tadpoles. Within species, closely related to H. dendroscarta, he recognized a variety of breeding habitats, which as in the general Osteocephalus and Phrynohyas, comprise ponds, streams, and phytotelms.

In summary, Osteocephalus and Phrynohyas larval habitats are notably diverse. But morphologically, larvae among the two genera are less diverse in that they share similar oral disk and buccopharyngeal features as well as overall average body proportions, high number of tooth rows, low balance values, omnivorous to macrophagous diets, and branchial ^a^s well ^a^s pulmonary respiration. Particularly, number of tooth rows and lung development do not correspond to habitat in the usual anuran larval fashion.

Two, not mutually exclusive, biological explanations for the generally high number of tooth rows and the well developed lungs in the extant non-phytotelmonous species examined are possible:

(1) Adaptation to contemporary environment. — Their contemporary larval environment is collectively characterized by comparatively high temperatures and correspondingly low oxygenation. If aerial respiration is the expected major factor in the development of lungs (as reviewed in WASSERSUG & SEIBERT, 1975 and WASSERSUG & MURPHY, 1987), low levels of dissolved oxygen favor early and extensive development of lungs in lentic but also in lotic tadpoles (NOBLE, 1929). If adhesion to substrate is the expected major action among the suggested functions of ^labia^l teeth (as reviewed in ALTIG & JoHNsTON, 1989), increased number of tooth rows, ⁱ.e., increased adhesive efficiency of the oral disk, might be an adaptation ^t^o compensate the hydrodynamic disadvantage (NOBLE, 1929; WASSERSUG, 1980) of well developed lungs especially in lotic environments. This explanation is more likely to apply to the lotic benthic Osteocephalus species than to the lentic nektonic Phrynohyas species. For both genera, increase in adhesive capacity of oral disk might also be ^a not yet considered correlate to macrophagous nutrition.

(2) Persistent influence of ancestral patterns. — Some features, such ^a^s high number of tooth rows in the lentic species, might represent an ancestral lotic pattern and might have persisted relatively unchanged. If breeding in phytotelms is "derived" (TRUEB, 1973). in the genera studied, other features, such ^a^s pulmonary respiration and omnivorous, predominantly macrophagous nutrition in non-phytotelmonous larvae, might further be exaptations (Gout p $\&$ VRBA, 1982) to life in lowly oxygenated and "confined" (e.g., LANNOO ^e^t ^al., 1987) phytotelmonous habitats.

RESUMEN

La morfologia externa y bucofaringea de larvas habitantes de fitotelmata y charcos de cuatro especies de hilidos neotropicales fueron analizadas con relacion a diagnosis diferencial y ecomorfologia. Los häbitats larvales tipicamente comprenden bromélias (Osteocephalus oophagus), hoquedades en ärboles (Phrynohyas resinifictrix), charcos en äreas de selva (Osteocephalus taurinus) y charcos en âreas abiertas (Phrynohyas venulosa). Un anälisis discriminante de caracteres externos morfométricos revelé dos subgrupos ligeramente diferentes dentro del grupo de habitantes de fitotelmata pero dos subgrupos bien separados dentro del grupo de los habitantes de charcos. Todas las especies mostraron proporciones corporales del tipo de un renacuajo generalista, häbitos macréfagos y respiraciôn tanto branquial como pulmonar. Los renacuajos que viven en fitotelmata fueron caracterizados por la reducciôn de las estructuras peribucales y bucofaringeas, y difirieron marcadamente en ^l^a morfologia del pico corneo y en ^e^l desarrello de los pulmones. Los renacuajos que se desarrollan en charcos fueron caracterizados por un alto nûmero de ^fila^s de denticulos y por valores de balance bajos. Los géneros *Phrynohyas y Osteocephalus* se distinguieron mejor por el desarrollo de filas de denticulos superiores secundarias, por la posiciôn de los ojos y por las proporciones corporales groseras.

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